**Poetry Summative Part 2**

**Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Block: \_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Aunt Jennifer’s Tigers --** Adrienne Rich

**Context:** This poem, first published in 1951, was written before Adrienne Rich had ever married. It was also written before she became a radical feminist.

**Guiding Questions (these questions are meant to help focus your ideas about the poem – you do not need to answer them):**

* In 1950’s America, what was the role of woman in society and in marriage? What was the role of men?
* What happens when people feel oppressed by their situations, restricted with no way to free themselves?

**Directions:** *Read and annotate* each poem. *Completely* answer the questions that follow each poem. Use complete sentences.

***Aunt Jennifer’s Tigers* by Adrienne Rich**

Aunt Jennifer's tigers prance across a screen, 1  
Bright topaz denizens of a world of green.  
They do not fear the men beneath the tree;  
They pace in sleek chivalric certainty.  
  
Aunt Jennifer's finger fluttering through her wool 5  
Find even the ivory needle hard to pull.  
The massive weight of Uncle's wedding band  
Sits heavily upon Aunt Jennifer's hand.  
  
When Aunt is dead, her terrified hands will lie  
Still ringed with ordeals she was mastered by. 10  
The tigers in the panel that she made  
Will go on prancing, proud and unafraid.

**Terms:**

1. **screen/panel:** a piece of fabric (in this poem-wool) on which an image is embroidered
2. **denizens:** inhabitant; a person admitted to residence in a foreign country; one that frequents a place or type of organization
3. **chivalric:** the sum of the ideal qualities of a knight: courtesy, generosity, valor.
4. **ordeals**: extremely severe or trying experiences

**Questions – *Make sure you are answering all parts of the question completely, and supporting your answer with evidence from the text*.**

1. What do the tigers symbolize in the poem? Use examples from the text to support your answer.
2. How does the author describe the tigers? Choose **two** examples of diction and explain the connotation. **How** does the diction and connotation create the image of the tiger?
3. Throughout the poem Aunt Jennifer is **embroidering (sewing)**. What does this activity/hobby **symbolize** in the poem? Support your answer with examples from the text.
4. **Analyze** the author’s use of diction in the poem. How does the diction connect to the overall themes in the poem? Use specific examples from the text to support your answer.
5. What does the contrasting **imagery** of, 1, Aunt Jennifer’s “fingers fluttering” (line 5) and, 2, the wedding band that “sits heavily” (line8), her hands “ringed” (line 10) with ordeals, **suggest**, **imply or communicate** about Aunt Jennifer’s married life? Use examples from the text to support your answer.